MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)
(Formerly Bureau of Health)
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**ADVISORY - Important Information **

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TO: Veterinarians; Hospitals; Pharmacists; Infection Control Practitioners;

Public Health-Required

FROM: Dora Anne Mills, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Director

SUBJECT: Temporary Decrease in Human Rabies Vaccine Supplies

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Temporary Decrease in Human Rabies Vaccine Supplies

Background: Rabies vaccine for humans in the United States is provided by two manufacturers. Sanofi Pasteur produces IMOVAX and Novartis produces RabAvert. Both manufacturers are currently having problems meeting the demand for their products.

Recommendations: For post-exposure prophylaxis, vaccine can be ordered directly from Sanofi Pasteur. Requests to Novartis for post-exposure prophylaxis will be referred to the state health department for approval.

For pre-exposure prophylaxis, Sonofi Pasteur has limited supplies of vaccine. Arrangements have been made to make vaccine available on a limited basis for workers at high risk for rabies exposure in the following order of priority:

- 1. Lab personnel working with rabies
- 2. Animal control officers
- 3. Veterinary staff
- 4. Wildlife workers that cannot delay vaccination until vaccine supplies for Pre-EP become available

Vaccine is not currently available for pre-exposure prophylaxis for travelers and other persons at risk (cavers, etc.) whose activities involving possible exposure to rabies are voluntary, not critical, and could be postponed or avoided. Vaccine is not available for a single booster of persons previously vaccinated with a less than adequate virus neutralizing titer (<1:5), with the exception of first responders. Persons requesting pre-exposure prophylaxis should contact the Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.

Novartis is not currently able to provide vaccine for pre-exposure prophylaxis.

For More Information: Please contact the Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821 for questions regarding rabies. The federal CDC will be providing frequent updates on vaccine supplies at: www.cdc.gov/rabies. Refer to the 2008 ACIP guidance for more information on pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis available at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm.